MARVEL®
© 1987 MARVEL ENT. GROUP, INC.
TM
$1.25 US
$1.75 CAN
1
1987
UK 40p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
new universe™
giant-sized annual
STAR BRAND™
TOM MORGAN '87
new universe

INTIMATE ENEMIES

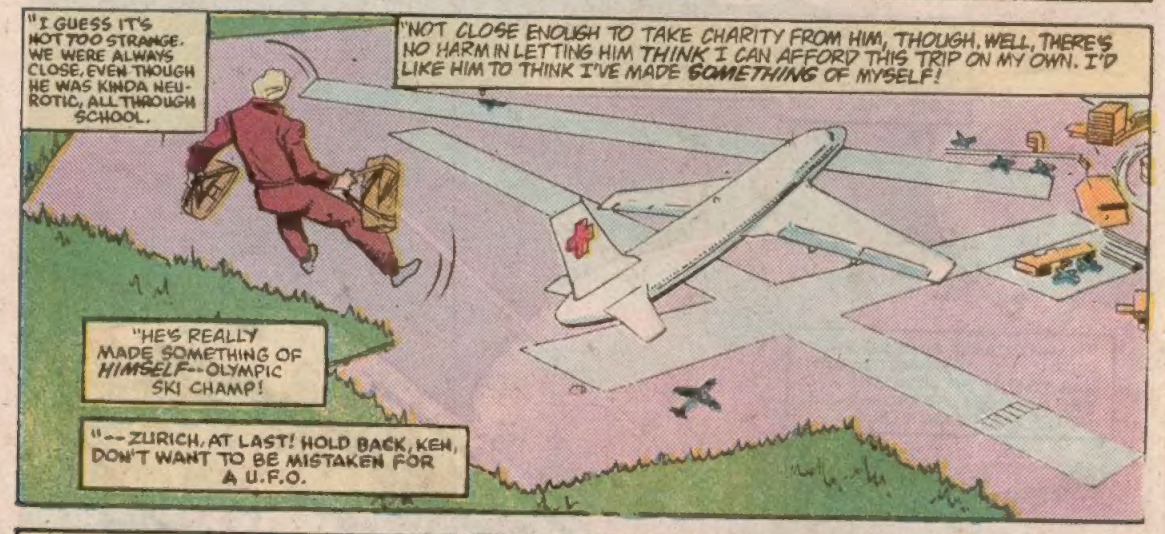
SOMEWHERE OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN.
"TOO BAD I HAVE TO KEEP MY SPEED DOWN TO STAY CLOSE TO THIS FLYING BOAT...
"AND IT'S ALWAYS SUCH A NUISANCE GETTING LOST--
"--AND KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT. WONDER WHAT THE PILOT WOULD DO IF HE COULD SEE ME NOW? COULD BE FUN. I COULD BE WITNESS TO THE WORLD'S FIRST DC-10 LOOP-THE-LOOP.
"NAH. I CAN'T AFFORD THE PUBLICITY. BOY, WHAT A MAN HAS TO PUT UP WITH JUST TO SEE HIS BEST FRIEND--EVEN IF THE MAN CAN FLY.
SWISSAIR

BOBBIE CHASE *WRITER* | GEOFF ISHERWOOD *PENCILER* | ART NICHOLS *INKER* | PETRA SCOTESE *COLORS* | JOE ROSEN *LETTERS* | MICHAEL HIGGINS *EDITOR* | JIM SHOOTER *EDITOR IN CHIEF*

STAR BRAND™ ANNUAL, No. 1, October, 1987. Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY, James E. Galton, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President; Milt Schiffman, Vice President, Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published annually. Copyright © 1987 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.25 per copy in the U.S. and $1.75 in Canada. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended and any similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. STAR BRAND (including all prominent chararcters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC.

Scanned By Toker The Kid

"SIX YEARS. THAT'S HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I'VE SEEN TONY KRAFT.
"AND TO GET A LETTER ALL OF A SUDDEN, WITH TWO PLANE TICKETS AND "DEAR KENNY, I'M DYIN' TA SEE YA. BUT NOT ENOUGH TO LEAVE SWITZERLAND FOR PITTSBURGH. HERE'S AN OFFER YOU SHOULDN'T REFUSE!" AND HE'S RIGHT. IT'S GONNA BE GREAT GETTING AWAY FROM EVERYBODY WHO KNOWS ABOUT THE STARBRAND'S POWER FOR A WHILE.


"I GUESS IT'S NOT TOO STRANGE. WE WERE ALWAYS CLOSE, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS KINDA NEUROTIC, ALL THROUGH SCHOOL.
"NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO TAKE CHARITY FROM HIM, THOUGH. WELL, THERE'S NO HARM IN LETTING HIM THINK I CAN AFFORD THIS TRIP ON MY OWN. I'D LIKE HIM TO THINK I'VE MADE SOMETHING OF MYSELF!
"HE'S REALLY MADE SOMETHING OF HIMSELF--OLYMPIC SKI CHAMP!
"--ZURICH, AT LAST! HOLD BACK, KEN, DON'T WANT TO BE MISTAKEN FOR A U.F.O.

"NOW LET'S HOPE I CAN SLIP IN BEFORE THE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS SWARM THIS FLIGHT. GOOD, NOBODY'S LOOKING. THIS IS TOO EASY. NO WONDER AIRPORTS HAVE A BAD REP. IF TERRORISTS HAD MY STARBRAND--HECK, THEY DON'T NEED IT!

Ankumtt | Arrival
"MADE IT! NOW FOR THE NEXT STEP--"
KEN! KENNY, OVER HERE!

GOOD TO SEE YA, PAL! IT'S BEEN TOO LONG. BUT LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, THERE'S SOMEBODY YOU'VE GOTTA MEET.

MUST BE THE GIRL-FRIEND YOU RAVED ABOUT IN YOUR LETTER. I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HER.
I WANT YOU TWO TO BE GOOD FRIENDS WHILE YOU'RE HERE--BUT NOT TOO GOOD.

KEN CONNELL, MEET ARIANE POIROT.
BONJOUR, KEN. WELCOME.
HMM. CUTE.

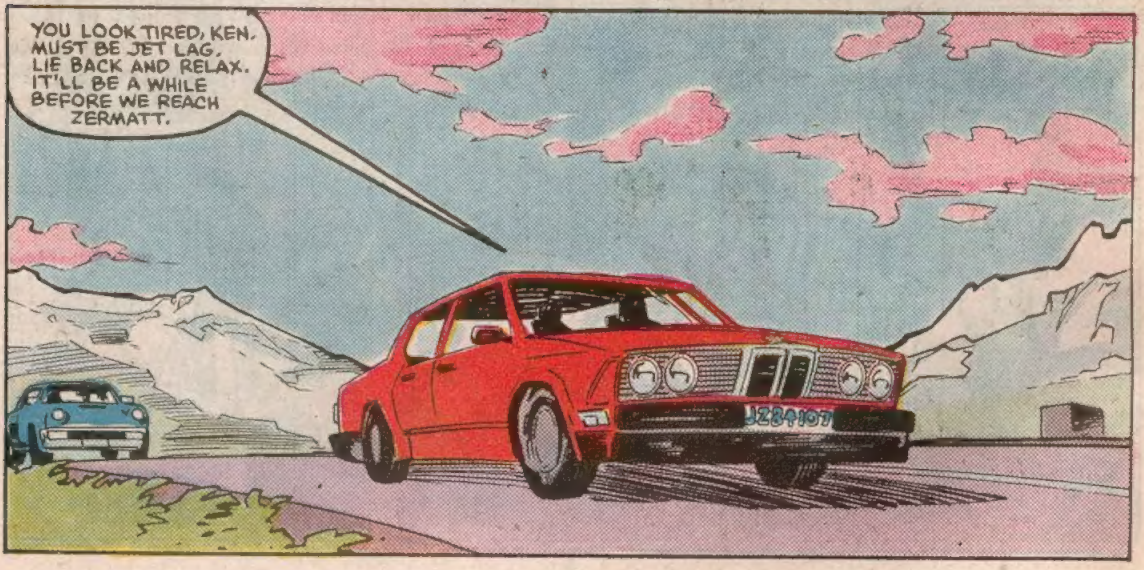
UM, HI. IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO BE HERE.
GORGEOUS!

KEN AND I GO ALL THE WAY BACK TO KINDER-GARTEN.
YEAH, THAT WAS BEFORE YOU MADE IT BIG AND FAMOUS ON THE SLOPES. EVERYBODY IN PITTSBURGH WATCHED YOU IN THE OLYMPICS!

WELL, NOTHING'S TOO GOOD FOR MY OLD FRIEND--EVEN THIS VACATION.
OH, BY THE WAY, I RETURNED THE PLANE TICKETS, I'LL PAY YOU BACK LATER. BUT THANKS ANYWAY. I WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED THIS FOR THE WORLD, AND I'VE BEEN SAVING UP FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL.
IT'S ARIANE'S.

DO YOU SKI, KEN? I DIDN'T SEE YOUR EQUIPMENT.
UM, WELL, MY STUFF'S OLD. I THOUGHT I'D PICK UP SOME HERE.

DON'T WORRY, ARIANE'S GOT A WHOLE ARMORY OF SKI STUFF BACK AT HER CHALET.
CHALET? GORGEOUS, AND *RICH* TOO. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, *NOT* AVAILABLE.
BOY AM I BUSHED.


YOU LOOK TIRED, KEN. MUST BE JET LAG. LIE BACK AND RELAX. IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE WE REACH ZERMATT.

WAKE UP, PAL. WE'RE HERE.
ZERMATT?
NOT QUITE. THIS IS TASCH STATION. CARS AREN'T ALLOWED IN ZERMATT, SO WE'VE GOTTA TAKE THE TRAIN FROM HERE.
Zermatt
HOW FAR IS IT NOW?
ONLY THREE MILES TO GO.
WOW, TALK ABOUT A PICTURE POST CARD TOWN. ARIANE, YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU *LIVE* HERE?
IT HAS BEEN MY FAMILY HOME FOR CENTURIES.
AND A VIEW OF THE WORLD FAMOUS MATTERHORN! YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO *DRAG* ME OUT OF HERE KICKING AND SCREAMING!

LATE THAT EVENING...
THIS IS THE LIFE. SIPPING APERITIFS IN FRONT OF THE FIRE.
WE'RE SO USED TO IT, KEN. IT'S A TREAT SEEING IT THROUGH YOUR EYES.
YOUR GORGEOUS EYES. MAYBE I'M JUST ATTRACTED TO AMERICANS. I HOPE TONY DOESN'T NOTICE.
A CHALET, A FIRE, AND A GIRL -- TOO BAD SHE'S NOT OVER HERE. BUT NO, TONY'S ONE OF MY OLDEST AND CLOSEST FRIENDS. I'D BETTER WATCH MYSELF...
...REMEMBER LISA. HE REALLY LIKED HER, AND I TOOK HER OUT. NEVER SAW ANYBODY GET SO ANGRY OVER A GIRL.
SSMASH!

TONY, CHER, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING, I'M TIRED, THAT'S ALL.

AND THE PRESSURE OF THE LAST FEW RACES, BUT DON'T WORRY, KENNY OL' PAL, I'M IN GREAT SHAPE.
AND TOMORROW I'LL GIVE YOU THE GREATEST WORK-OF YOUR LIFE ON THE SLOPES!

WELL, KEN, SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE. YOU SURE HAVEN'T, BUT THIS TIME THINGS WILL BE HANDS OFF.

MORE BRANDY, ARIANE?
SHE SEEMS REALLY UPTIGHT.
AH, NON, MERCI. I SHOULD GO TO BED TOO.

ME TOO, BOY I'M STILL TIRED.
LET ME SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.

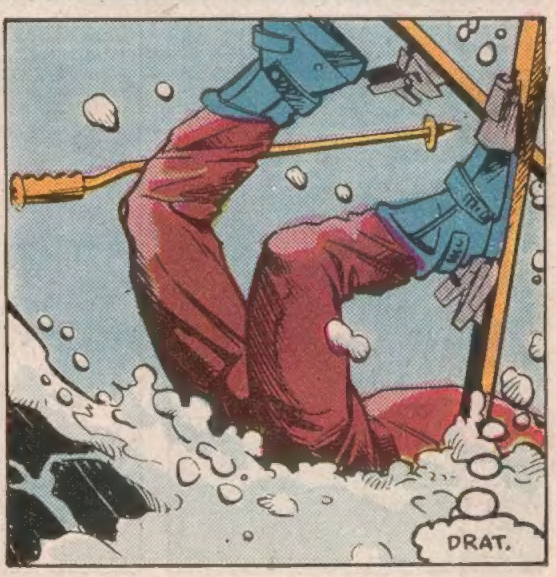
TONY, MY LOVE, I THOUGHT THE JEALOUSIES WERE OVER!
BUT IT SEEMS THEY'RE JUST BEGINNING.

THE SLOPES, NEXT MORNING...
WHAT'SA MATTER, KENNY? CAN'T PUT SKIS ON BY YOURSELF?
IT'S BEEN AWHILE ARIANE GRACIOUSLY OFFERED TO HELP.
WELL, LET'S HOPE YOU REMEMBER HOW TO SKI! SEE YOU AMATEURS AT THE BOTTOM--

--BUT DON'T MAKE ME WAIT TOO LONG.

THAT DOES IT! I JUST HATE TO BE MADE A FOOL OF IN FRONT OF A WOMAN!

WHHH OOOAH!
BLIZZARD

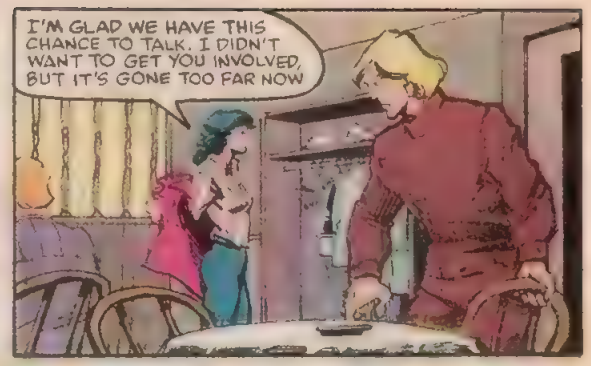

DRAT.

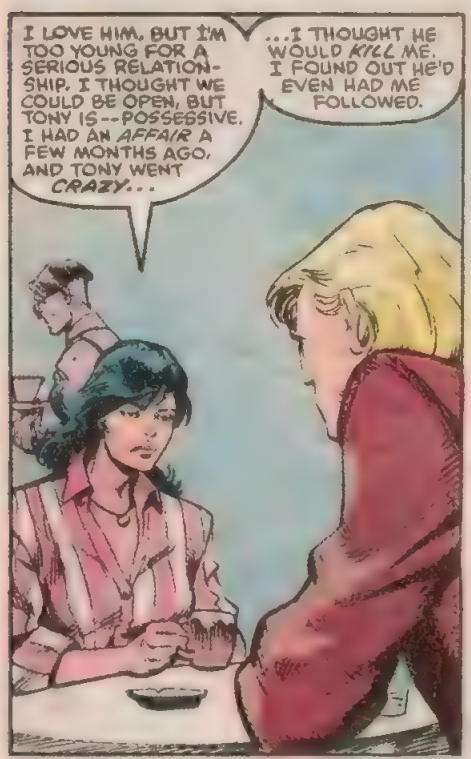
HAHAHAHA!
THAT DOES IT.
TIME TO USE A LITTLE STARBRAND ABILITY.
IF I CAN'T SKI ON SNOW, AT LEAST I CAN SKI TWO INCHES OFF OF IT.
EAT MY SNOW-- FRIEND.
WOW. I'M PRETTY GOOD--
"--FOR A BEGINNER.
"AND THE WINNER IS! -- WHOA, BETTER SLOW DOWN. I DON'T WANT TO ATTRACT A CROWD."
KEN, C'ETAIT MERVEILLEUX! TONY, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR FRIEND? HE SKIS AS GOOD AS YOU, NON?
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT.

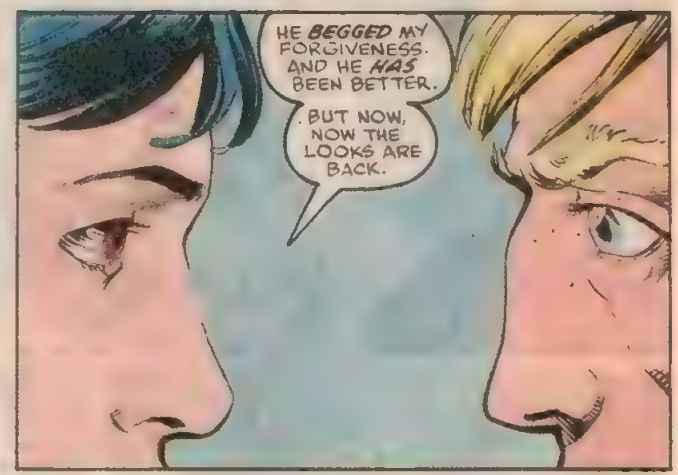
THAT NIGHT...
HEY, PAL, LONG TIME NO SEE!
TONY, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN FOR SO LONG?
I'VE BEEN OUT, TALKING TO MY COACH. WHAT'S IT TO YOU?
NOTHING, I... YOU SHOULDN'T NEGLECT YOUR FRIEND FOR SO--
I'VE GOT A RACE TOMORROW, AND YOU TWO OBVIOUSLY DON'T NEED ME. 'NIGHT.
NEXT DAY AT THE RACE...
TONY BEAT TODAY'S BEST TIME IN THE TRAINING RUN THE OTHER DAY. IT LOOKS GOOD FOR HIM TO WIN.
HE'S UP NEXT. WATCH--
"--FOR NUMERO 9.
"HE LOOKS GREAT! PERFECT FORM AND SPEED.
"OH, NO! HE'S LOST A SKI!

TONY!
"HE'S OFF THE COURSE!
"MON DIEU, GOOD HEAVENS, HE'S...
TONY, ANTOINE, MON CHER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SHOOT! ONE MORE FOUL UP LIKE THAT, AND I CAN KISS THE FINALS GOOD-BYE, AND MY SPONSOR.
ZERMATT
9
KEN, WHAT SHOULD I DO? HELP ME!
HE JUST GETS WORSE AND WORSE.

A FEW NIGHTS LATER...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! IT'S AS IF HE'S TRYING TO AVOID US, TO THROW US TOGETHER.
LIMBEAU


I'M GLAD WE HAVE THIS CHANCE TO TALK. I DIDN'T WANT TO GET YOU INVOLVED, BUT IT'S GONE TOO FAR NOW


I LOVE HIM. BUT I'M TOO YOUNG FOR A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP. I THOUGHT WE COULD BE OPEN, BUT TONY IS--POSSESSIVE. I HAD AN AFFAIR A FEW MONTHS AGO, AND TONY WENT CRAZY...
...I THOUGHT HE WOULD KILL ME. I FOUND OUT HE'D EVEN HAD ME FOLLOWED.


HE BEGGED MY FORGIVENESS. AND HE HAS BEEN BETTER.
BUT NOW, NOW THE LOOKS ARE BACK.

I'M SURE HE'D NEVER HURT YOU HE'S NOT--
--KEN, LOOK!

HE GAVE UP DRINKING MONTHS AGO. HE PROMISED ME!

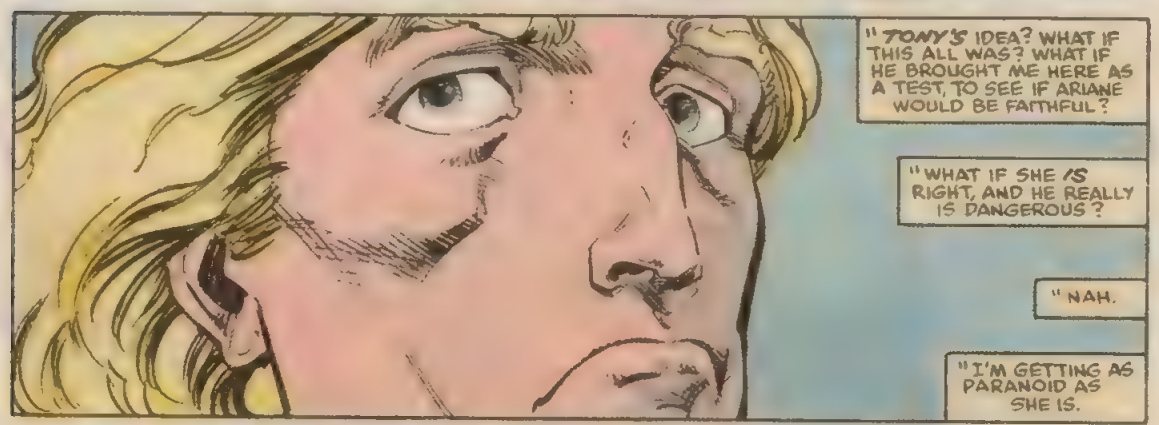
TONY, COME HOME. WE'VE COME TO GET YOU.

THE HECK YOU DID
GO HAVE A GOOD TIME
I SAID, GET LOST.

THE NEXT MORNING...
HIYA, KIDDIES!
LOOK, SORRY ABOUT MY, AH, LOUSY MOOD LAST NIGHT. THE RACE, YOU KNOW. I GUESS I WAS STILL A BIT GROUCHY ABOUT IT.
HEY, NO PROBLEM, TONY. GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER.
IN WHICH CASE, WHY DON'T YOU SHOW THE THREE OF US AROUND THE TOWN?
LOVE TO, PAL, BUT THE SHOULDER IS STILL A BIT SORE.
BUT ARIANE WOULD LOVE TO, WOULDN'T YOU, SUGAR?
IT'S JUST AS IT WAS BEFORE. LOVING, AND THEN HATEFUL. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
OH, ARIANE, I'M SURE YOU'RE OVERREACTING. TONY'S ALWAYS BEEN THE JEALOUS TYPE, BUT HE WOULDN'T HURT A SNOW BUNNY!
YES, BUT HE'S DRINKING, AND IT SCARES ME.

COME ON, FORGET ABOUT IT. I'VE BEEN PROMISED A GOOD TIME. HOWSABOUT A CABLE CAR RIDE TO KLEIN MATTERHORN? THE FRESH AIR MIGHT CLEAR YOUR HEAD.
NO... I THINK IT'S BEST IF WE NOT SPEND SO MUCH TIME TOGETHER.
"THAT GIRL REALLY *GETS* TO ME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.
"I'VE REALLY WALKED INTO ONE TERRIFIC MESS.
"WELL IF SHE CAN'T USE THE FRESH AIR...
"... I SURE CAN.

"THIS TRIP HAS TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE WORST IDEAS OF ALL TIME.
"GOOD THING I DIDN'T THINK OF IT.
"IT WAS ALL TONY'S IDEA.

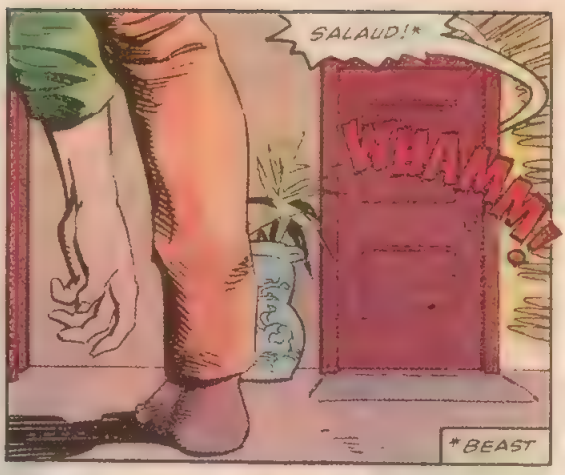

"TONY'S IDEA? WHAT IF THIS ALL WAS? WHAT IF HE BROUGHT ME HERE AS A TEST, TO SEE IF ARIANE WOULD BE FAITHFUL?
"WHAT IF SHE IS RIGHT, AND HE REALLY IS DANGEROUS?
"NAH.
"I'M GETTING AS PARANOID AS SHE IS.

"BUT, JUST IN CASE. WHY TAKE STUPID CHANCES?

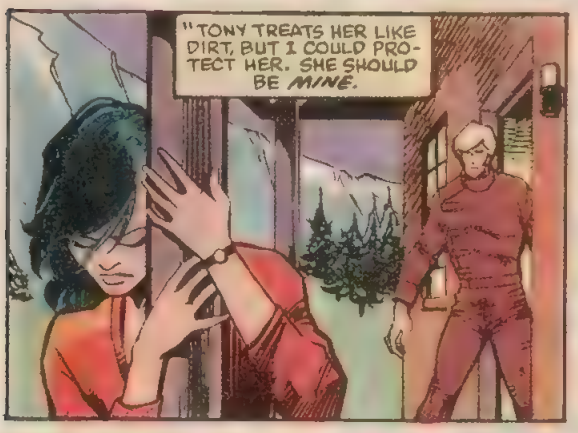
"WHAT'S THAT RACKET? IT'S COMING FROM INSIDE!"

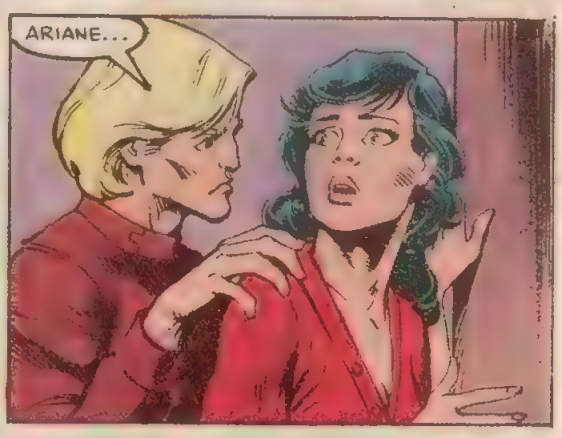
TONY, STOP IT! YOU'RE DRUNK!
I TOLD YOU TO...
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?!!!
DON' WORRY, KENNY. WE'RE JESH FOOLING 'ROUND
CALL IT A PARTY--AN YER INVITED, OF COURSE.
GEE, THANKS.

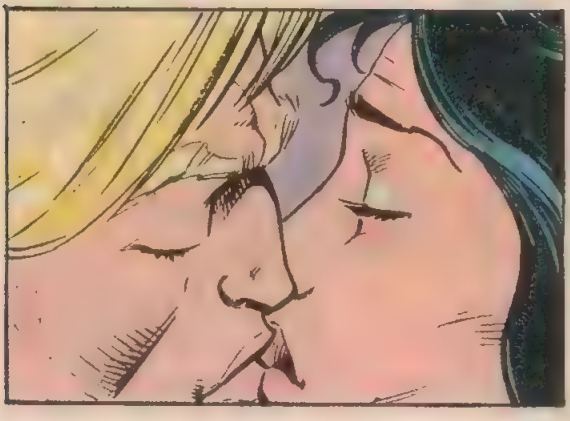
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT. HE WAS FINE BEFORE YOU CAME! IF YOU HADN'T, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED!

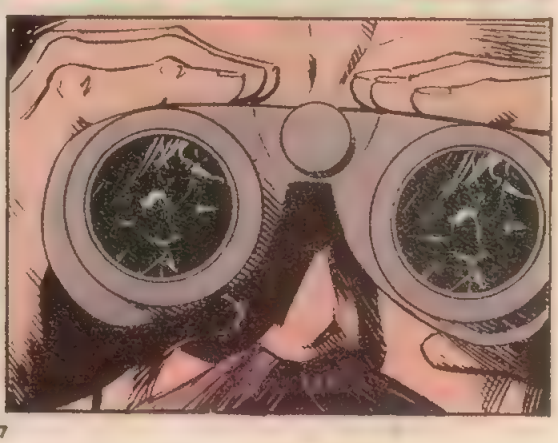

SALAUD!*
WHAMM!
*BEAST

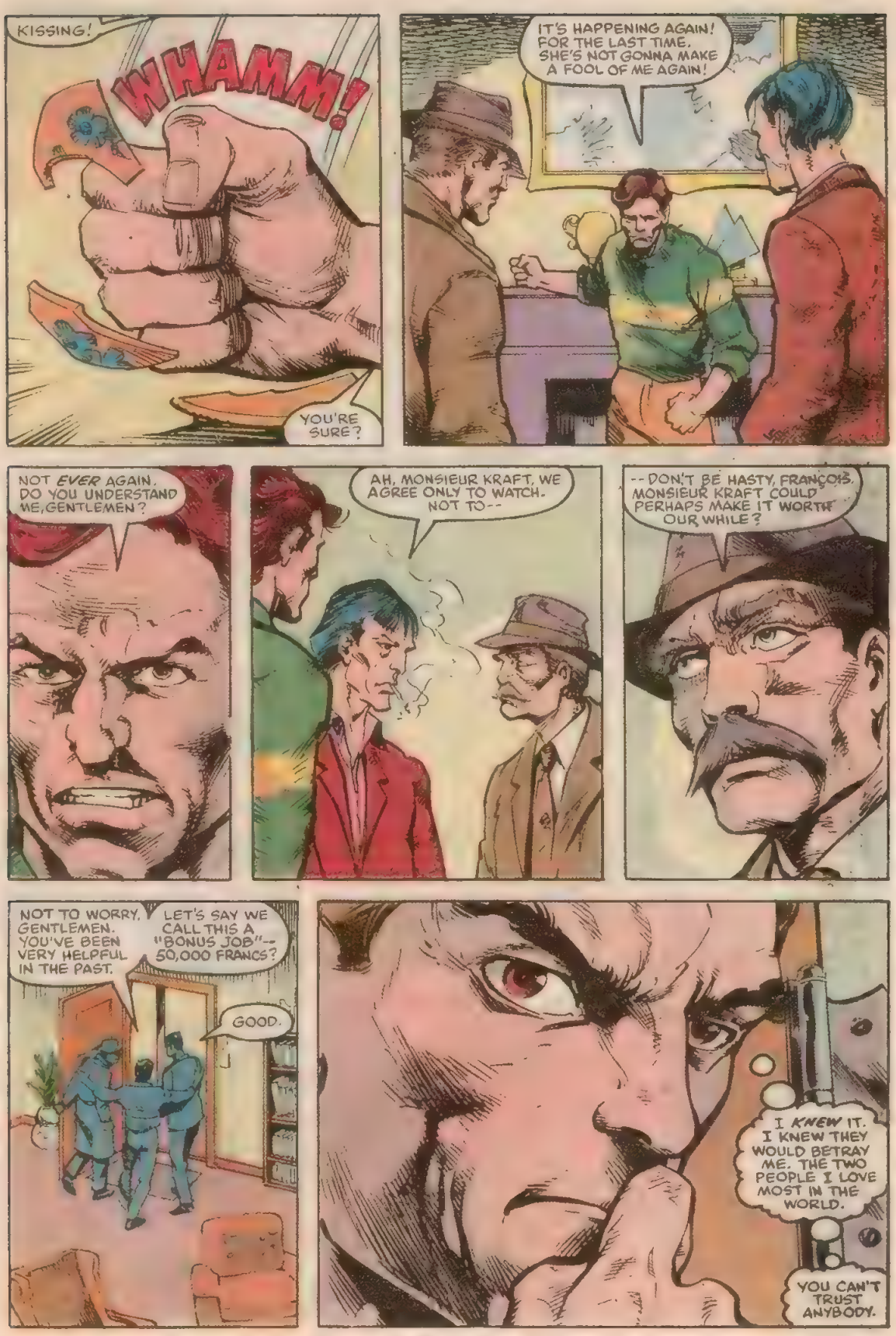
"HOW'D I GET TO BE THE BAD GUY?


"TONY TREATS HER LIKE DIRT, BUT I COULD PROTECT HER. SHE SHOULD BE MINE.


ARIANE...






KISSING!
WHAMM!
YOU'RE SURE?
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN! FOR THE LAST TIME, SHE'S NOT GONNA MAKE A FOOL OF ME AGAIN!
NOT EVER AGAIN. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, GENTLEMEN?
AH, MONSIEUR KRAFT, WE AGREE ONLY TO WATCH. NOT TO--
--DON'T BE HASTY, FRANÇOIS. MONSIEUR KRAFT COULD PERHAPS MAKE IT WORTH OUR WHILE?
NOT TO WORRY, GENTLEMEN. YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN THE PAST.
LET'S SAY WE CALL THIS A "BONUS JOB"-- 50,000 FRANCS?
GOOD.
I KNEW IT. I KNEW THEY WOULD BETRAY ME. THE TWO PEOPLE I LOVE MOST IN THE WORLD.
YOU CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY.

NEXT DAY...
OH, KEN, IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE FUN AGAIN!
I TOLD YOU, ALL YOU NEEDED WAS A LITTLE FRESH AIR.
OH, NO! BEHIND THOSE TREES! TWO MEN WITH HIGH POWERED BOWS. HOW DID THEY FIND ME?
NO! THEY'LL HIT ARIANE UNLESS I --
OOOF!
GOT HER! AT LEAST SHE DIDN'T SEE WHAT HAPPENED.
"NOW FOR THE BAD GUYS..."
AHHHH
ARIANE!
OOH, MA TÊTE!
"GUESS I HIT HER A BIT TOO HARD. DON'T KNOW MY OWN STARBRAND STRENGTH. FORTUNATELY, SHE'S ONLY DAZED.
YOU OKAY?
SORRY I'M SO CLUMSY
MAYBE I SHOULD STICK TO SUMMER SPORTS.
"WHOEVER THEY WERE, THEY'VE SEEN ME USE THE STARBRAND.
YOU OKAY, KIDS?
YEAH, JUST HAD A LITTLE SKATING ACCIDENT.

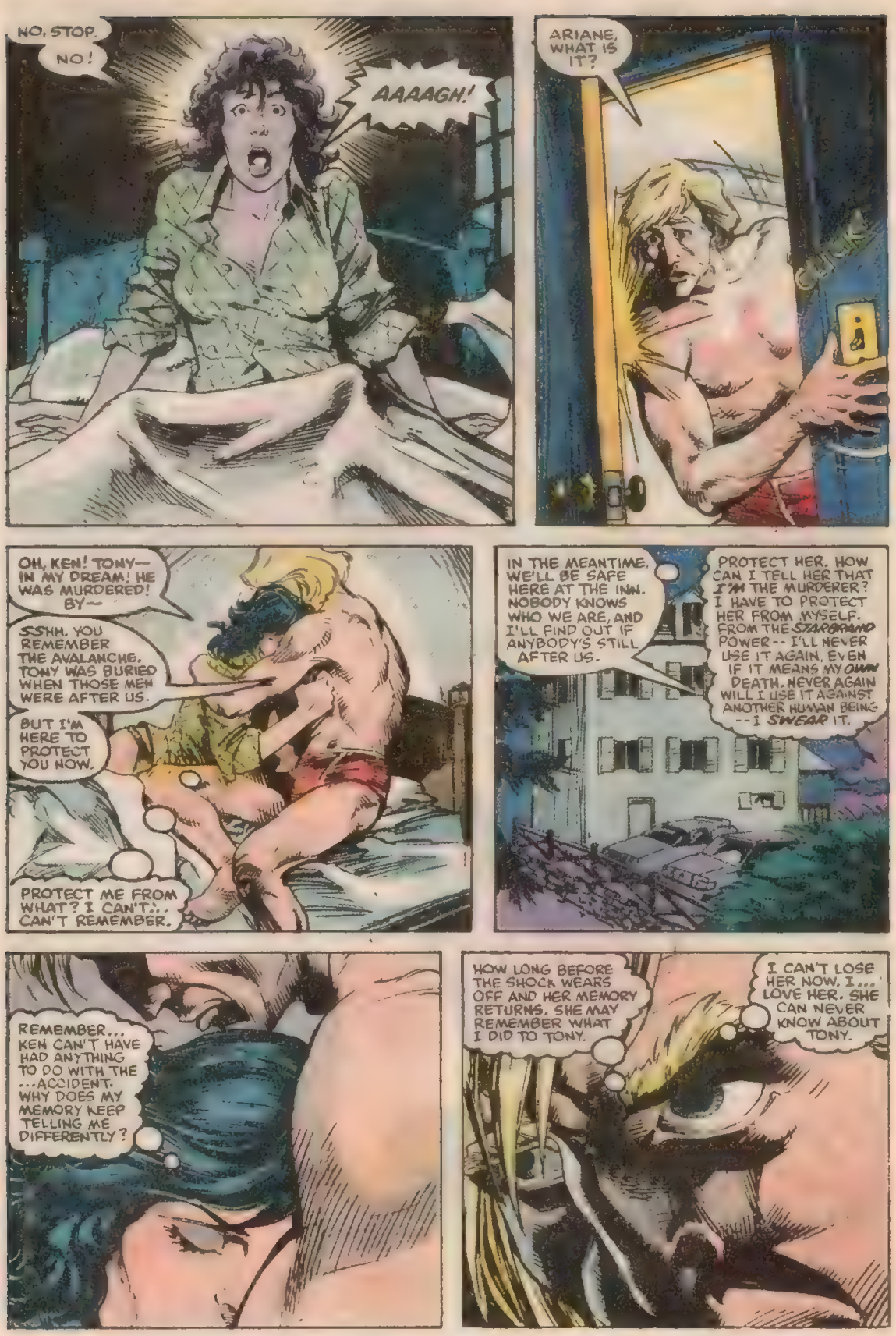
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A LITTLE ACCIDENT.
YOU TWO BOTCHED THIS.
DON'T WORRY. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
JUST TELL US WHERE AND WHEN.
TOMORROW ON THE SLOPES. DON'T BLOW IT.
WE WON'T. BECAUSE WE'LL BE AFTER HIM. AND WE'LL TAKE HIM ALIVE.
OUI, JEAN. A CERTAIN "GROUP" I KNOW OF WOULD PAY HIGHLY FOR A MAN WHO CAN DEFLECT ARROWS, AND LEAP METERS INTO THE AIR.
WE'LL BE SET FOR LIFE.
NEXT DAY...
OH, NO!
KEN, WHAT'S WRONG?
ARIANE, TONY! FOLLOW ME!
I'VE GOTTA GET THEM OUT OF DANGER.
PTANG! PTANG!

DON'T WORRY, ARIANE, I'LL PROTECT US!
US? WHERE'S TONY? IS HE--
--OH, NO -- TONY!
"I THOUGHT THEY WERE AFTER THE STARBRAND. HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?
"IT WAS TONY! HE WAS TRYING TO KILL US! BUT HE'S MY FRIEND! I CAN'T HURT HIM! I CAN'T USE MY POWERS, NOT IN THE OPEN LIKE THIS!
"THEY'RE CATCHING UP. I CAN'T PROTECT ARIANE.
"THEY'RE AIMING FOR HER!
"TONY FRIEND. DON'T MAKE ME DO THIS!"
TONY-- CALL THEM OFF!

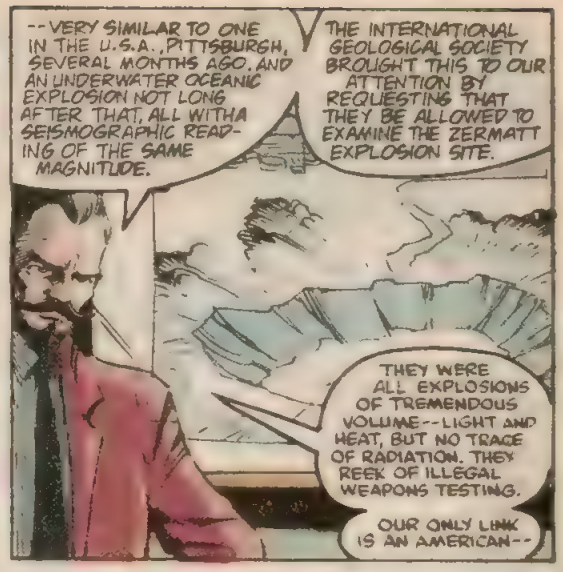
BA
BOOOOOOM!
THEY'RE NOT STOPPING, I HAVE TO USE THE STARBRAND-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT ARIANE!

WHAT...
benetton
WHAT...
WHAT...
"I'VE CAUSED AN AVALANCHE-- THEY'VE ALL BEEN BURIED!
"TONY MUST BE DEAD!
"THE STARBRAND KILLED HIM.
KEN? I DON'T...
"NO. I KILLED HIM."
END OF CHAPTER ONE.

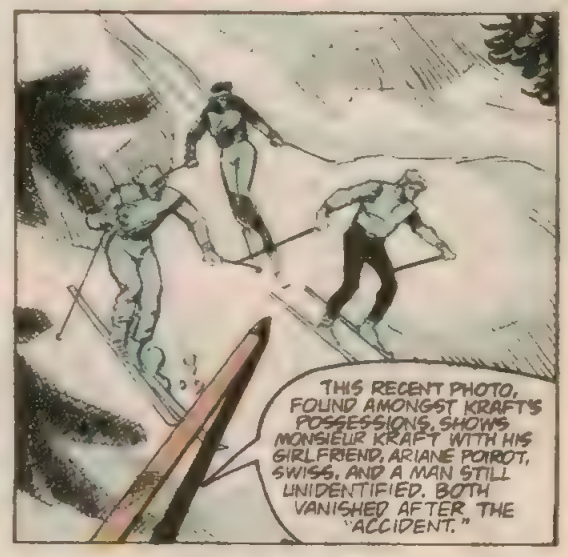
CHAPTER TWO
"WAS IT A FRIEND OR FOE THAT SPREAD THESE LIES? ...'T WAS ONE OF MY MOST INTIMATE ENEMIES."
DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI
NO, STOP.
NO!
BA-BOOOM!

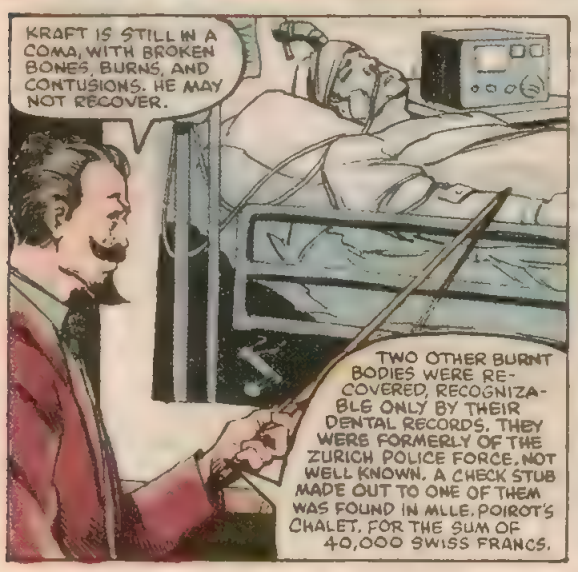

NO, STOP, NO!
AAAAGH!
ARIANE, WHAT IS IT?
OH, KEN! TONY--IN MY DREAM! HE WAS MURDERED! BY--
SSSHH. YOU REMEMBER THE AVALANCHE. TONY WAS BURIED WHEN THOSE MEN WERE AFTER US.
BUT I'M HERE TO PROTECT YOU NOW.
PROTECT ME FROM WHAT? I CAN'T... CAN'T REMEMBER.
IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL BE SAFE HERE AT THE INN. NOBODY KNOWS WHO WE ARE, AND I'LL FIND OUT IF ANYBODY'S STILL AFTER US.
PROTECT HER. HOW CAN I TELL HER THAT I'M THE MURDERER? I HAVE TO PROTECT HER FROM MYSELF. FROM THE STARBRAND POWER -- I'LL NEVER USE IT AGAIN, EVEN IF IT MEANS MY OWN DEATH. NEVER AGAIN WILL I USE IT AGAINST ANOTHER HUMAN BEING -- I SWEAR IT.
REMEMBER... KEN CAN'T HAVE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ...ACCIDENT. WHY DOES MY MEMORY KEEP TELLING ME DIFFERENTLY?
HOW LONG BEFORE THE SHOCK WEARS OFF AND HER MEMORY RETURNS. SHE MAY REMEMBER WHAT I DID TO TONY.
I CAN'T LOSE HER NOW. I... LOVE HER. SHE CAN NEVER KNOW ABOUT TONY.

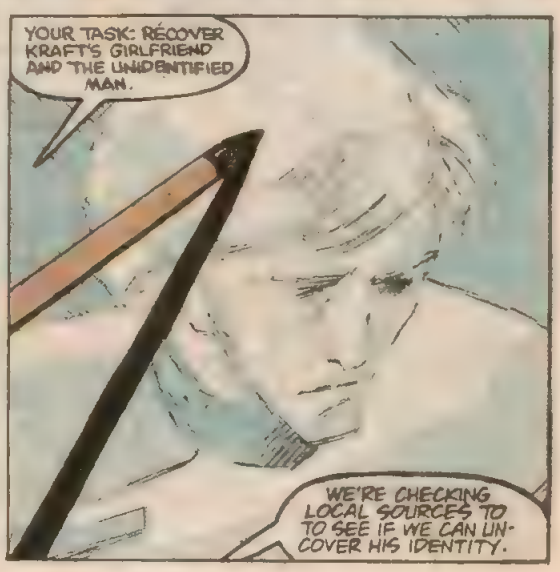
PARIS. AT INTERPOL*
--A SMALL SCALE AVALANCHE IN ZERMATT, IN WHICH TWO MEN WERE KILLED AND ONE OTHER INJURED CRITICALLY, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A VERY UNUSUAL EXPLOSION--
*INTERNATIONAL POLICE


--VERY SIMILAR TO ONE IN THE U.S.A., PITTSBURGH, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, AND AN UNDERWATER OCEANIC EXPLOSION NOT LONG AFTER THAT. ALL WITH A SEISMOGRAPHIC READING OF THE SAME MAGNITUDE.
THE INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY BROUGHT THIS TO OUR ATTENTION BY REQUESTING THAT THEY BE ALLOWED TO EXAMINE THE ZERMATT EXPLOSION SITE.
THEY WERE ALL EXPLOSIONS OF TREMENDOUS VOLUME--LIGHT AND HEAT, BUT NO TRACE OF RADIATION. THEY REEK OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS TESTING.
OUR ONLY LINK IS AN AMERICAN--

TONY KRAFT, A PROFESSIONAL SKIER, ODDLY ENOUGH FROM PITTSBURGH, NOW RESIDING IN ZURICH.
FISCHER


THIS RECENT PHOTO, FOUND AMONGST KRAFT'S POSSESSIONS, SHOWS MONSIEUR KRAFT WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND, ARIANE POIROT, SWISS, AND A MAN STILL UNIDENTIFIED. BOTH VANISHED AFTER THE "ACCIDENT."


KRAFT IS STILL IN A COMA, WITH BROKEN BONES, BURNS, AND CONTUSIONS. HE MAY NOT RECOVER.
TWO OTHER BURNT BODIES WERE RECOVERED, RECOGNIZABLE ONLY BY THEIR DENTAL RECORDS. THEY WERE FORMERLY OF THE ZURICH POLICE FORCE. NOT WELL KNOWN. A CHECK STUB MADE OUT TO ONE OF THEM WAS FOUND IN MLLE. POIROT'S CHALET, FOR THE SUM OF 40,000 SWISS FRANCS.

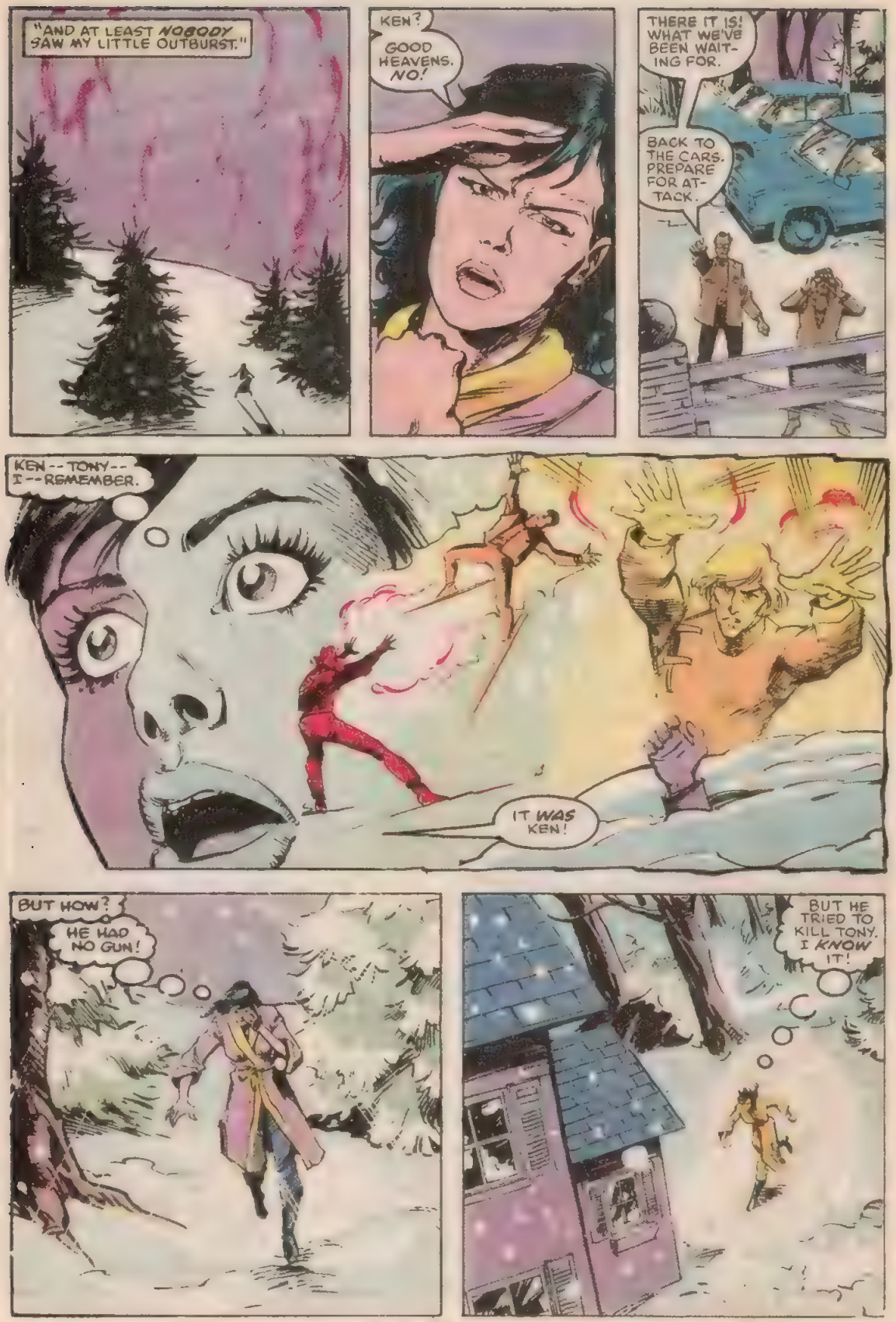

YOUR TASK: RECOVER KRAFT'S GIRLFRIEND AND THE UNIDENTIFIED MAN.
WE'RE CHECKING LOCAL SOURCES TO TO SEE IF WE CAN UNCOVER HIS IDENTITY.

MEANWHILE, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF AN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION...
--AND OUR MOLE WITHIN INTERPOL HAS GIVEN THEIR IDENTITIES AS THE SAME TWO MEN WHO WERE TRYING TO SELL US A "SECRET WEAPON" FOR A VERY HIGH PRICE.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE ONLY THE PHOTOS TAKEN BY THESE TWO MEN. WE KNOW WHO THE GIRL IS, BUT NOT EVEN THE POLICE HAVE ANY CLUE TO THE MAN'S IDENTITY OR LOCATION.
THIS IS WHAT YOU GENTLEMEN WILL HAVE TO FIND OUT.
THAT NIGHT, AT THE INN...
NOW, WHILE SHE'S ASLEEP...
I WONDER IF THE BOYS BACK HOME AT THE AUTOBODY SHOP WOULD BE PROUD OF ME? I KNOW THEY DIDN'T TEACH ME HOW TO HOT-WIRE SO I COULD STEAL CARS.
AT THE CHALET...
HMMM. LOOKS LIKE MILITARY AUTHORITY.
I GUESS THEY'VE TORN THE PLACE APART PRETTY WELL.
I HATE LYING TO ARIANE, BUT WE CAN'T GO BACK NOW. I HAVE TO STAY AWAY FROM THE POLICE.
SHE'LL HAVE TO KEEP ON THINKING THAT SHE'S THE ONE WHO NEEDS PROTECTION, OR I'LL LOSE HER.

"MIGHT AS WELL GO.
"IT'S TOO LATE TO RETRIEVE ANY EVIDENCE OF MY EXISTENCE NOW."
THAT MUST BE HIM.
WHAT NOW?
WE DO AS MUHAMMED SAID. WE FOLLOW, WE WATCH, AND WHEN WE SEE A SIGN OF HIS GREAT POWER, THEN WE MAKE OUR MOVE.
"MY EXISTENCE,
"I WONDER WHAT KIND OF A THREAT THE AUTHORITIES THINK MY EXISTENCE IS?
"I BET THEY COULDN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE HOW GREAT A POTENTIAL THREAT THE STARBRAND POWER REALLY IS.
"AND NEITHER WILL ARIANE. EVER."
BACK AT THE INN
ARIANE?
WE HAVE TO TALK.
I DON'T KNOW WHO THEY ARE, BUT OUR KILLERS ARE STILL AFTER US. I JUST SAW THEM AT YOUR HOUSE.
IT'S TIME TO GO.
I KNOW A PLACE WHERE WE'LL BE SAFER. A FRIEND'S COTTAGE. VERY REMOTE.
OKAY, LET'S GO.
SAFER. HOW CAN I BE SURE? SAFER FROM WHOM? BUT I HAVE TO TRUST KEN NOW. HE'S ALL I'VE GOT.
MINUTES LATER, OUTSIDE THE INN...
THEY'RE MAKING THEIR MOVE. THEY'VE STOLEN ANOTHER CAR THIS TIME. KEEP OUT OF SIGHT AND FOLLOW AT A DISTANCE.

HOURS LATER...
BOY, WHEN YOU SAID REMOTE, YOU WEREN'T KIDDING.
THIS IS PERFECT. YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE THE HOUSE FROM HERE.
WHAT NOW? THEY'VE GONE UP THERE, WE CAN'T EVEN KEEP VISUAL CONTACT.
DON'T WORRY. FROM WHAT THE PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS SAID, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE WHATEVER WE NEED TO FROM THIS DISTANCE.
I'M GOING TO TAKE A WALK, TO CLEAR MY HEAD.
I'VE GOTTA THINK OF WHAT WE SHOULD DO NEXT. STAY PUT.
DON'T WORRY. I WANT TO SEE SOME TELEVISION.
SOMEBODY MUST KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.
CLICK
--KRAFT IS STILL IN A COMA, ALTHOUGH THE DOCTORS DO NOT BELIEVE HE IS BRAIN DEAD. HE'S BEEN BURNED ON PARTS OF HIS UPPER BODY, A PHENOMENON WHICH THE POLICE AS YET REFUSE TO COMMENT ON.
BURNED!?
BY AN AVALANCHE?-- HOW CAN THAT BE?
MY DREAMS! I REMEMBER!
NO! IT CAN'T BE!

KEN, WHERE ARE YOU?
KEN!!
"OH, ARIANE, HOW CAN I TELL YOU?
"I'VE USED THE STAR-BRAND TO HURT--MAYBE KILL, ONE OF MY BEST AND OLDEST FRIENDS.
"I CAN NEVER USE IT AGAIN. EVER!
"BUT HOW CAN I KEEP HER FROM KNOWING?
"SHE'LL FIND OUT. SHE'LL THINK I TRIED TO KILL TONY ON PURPOSE.
"OH, WHY DID I EVER FALL IN LOVE WITH--
"WHU--HOW'D THE POWER COME ON?
WHOOOSH
"BETTER CUT IT--
"MUCH TOO LATE. IT MUST'VE BEEN MY EMOTIONS. IT MADE THE POWER COME ON, AND THE SNOW MELTED.
"I CAN'T USE IT AGAIN.
"BUT NOW I'LL EITHER DROWN OR FREEZE.
"KEN CONNELL, GO TO BLAZES.
"CAN'T YOU JUST ONCE HAVE THE STRENGTH OF YOUR OWN CONVICTIONS?!
SMAK FOOM!
"WELL, AT LEAST I'M NOT USING IT AGAINST ANOTHER PERSON."


"AND AT LEAST NOBODY SAW MY LITTLE OUTBURST."
KEN?
GOOD HEAVENS. NO!
THERE IT IS! WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.
BACK TO THE CARS. PREPARE FOR ATTACK.
KEN -- TONY -- I -- REMEMBER.
IT WAS KEN!
BUT HOW?
HE HAD NO GUN!
BUT HE TRIED TO KILL TONY. I KNOW IT!

AND HE'S NOT GOING TO GET THE CHANCE TO KILL ME!
ARIANE, GOT A TOWEL?
I'M FREEZING. I--
STAY AWAY FROM ME! I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU ARE ANY MORE! I JUST SAW WHAT HAPPENED!
PLEASE, LET ME EXPLAIN.
QUEL MONSTRE! YOU TRIED TO KILL YOUR BEST FRIEND!
STAY BACK!
ARIANE, PLEASE! IT WAS TONY WHO WAS TRYING TO KILL US! REMEMBER? HE WAS JEALOUS, YOU KNOW THAT. BUT STILL, HE WAS MY FRIEND!
IT'S THE STARGRAND.
I'VE BEEN GIVEN A STRANGE POWER, WHICH I DON'T WANT.
SEE?
BUT DON'T EVER THINK THAT I WOULD HURT YOU.
I LOVE YOU.
BUT I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO ZERMATT, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
Y-YES.

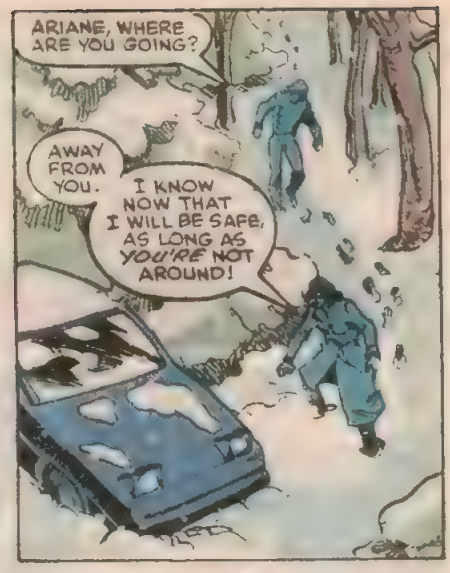
2 A.M.
"AND IT'S SNOWING, TO TOP IT OFF.
"THIS HAS GOTTA BE THE WORST NIGHT OF MY LIFE.
"SHE WON'T EVEN TALK TO ME"
HERE THEY COME, THROUGH THE GATE.
GET READY.
"WHO ELSE IS CRAZY ENOUGH TO BE OUT ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS?
"HE'S TRYING TO PASS ME. IS HE NUTS?!"
KEN, WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I DON'T KNOW--HE ALMOST HIT ME! CRAZY FOOL!

OH, NO! THERE'S ANOTHER--
THIS IS IT. MY CHANCE FOR REDEMPTION. CAN'T USE MY POWERS NOW, BUT I'VE GOT TO PROTECT ARIANE WITH ALL I'VE GOT.
HANG ON, I'M BREAKING AWAY!
VROOOM!
I OWE HER AT *LEAST* THAT.
BE CAREFUL, HE'S TRYING TO CUT YOU OFF!
I CAN SEE THAT! BRACE YOURSELF!
KA-RAAASH!
SSSSSSS
HOLD ON, IT'S NOT OVER YET--
--HOPE YOU'RE A FAST RUNNER.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WHERE DO YOU THINK? TO HIDE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HIDE?
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO KILL THEM TOO, SO WHY DON'T YOU?
THEY'RE PROBABLY FOLLOWING US RIGHT NOW.
KEEP QUIET, AND KEEP RUNNING!
LOOK, KEN. OVER THERE!
JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR. PERFECT COVER!
YOU MEAN FOR AN AMBUSH?
NO, A HIDEOUT.
AND HERE THEY COME RIGHT NOW. KEEP DOWN!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, KEEP DOWN? AREN'T YOU GOING TO KILL THEM?
NOW, WHEN YOU CAN FINALLY DO SOME GOOD, YOU WON'T! PROTECT ME! YOU HAVE THE POWER!
IT'S A CHANCE TO REDEEM YOURSELF, AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO TONY!
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING! I CAN'T--
CAN'T WHAT?
YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING, BECAUSE YOU ARE A COWARD! UN POULET!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL PROTECT HER. I'M NO COWARD! THEY'RE--
GONE.
THEY'RE GONE.
ARIANE, I WON'T KILL THEM. I CAN'T KILL ANOTHER PERSON, NOT EVEN FOR YOU.
COWARD!
YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

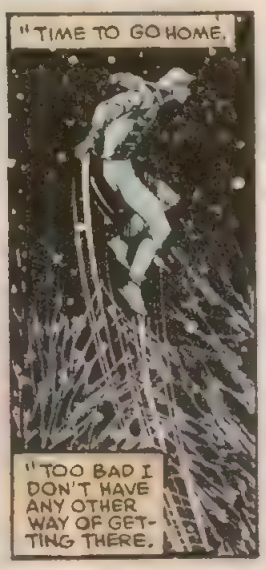
YOU COULD HAVE PROTECTED ME. BUT YOU DIDN'T! I TRUSTED YOU, AND YOU'VE *DESTROYED* EVERYTHING!
BUT-- I DID THE RIGHT THING --DIDN'T I?


ARIANE, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
AWAY FROM YOU.
I KNOW NOW THAT I WILL BE SAFE, AS LONG AS *YOU'RE* NOT AROUND!

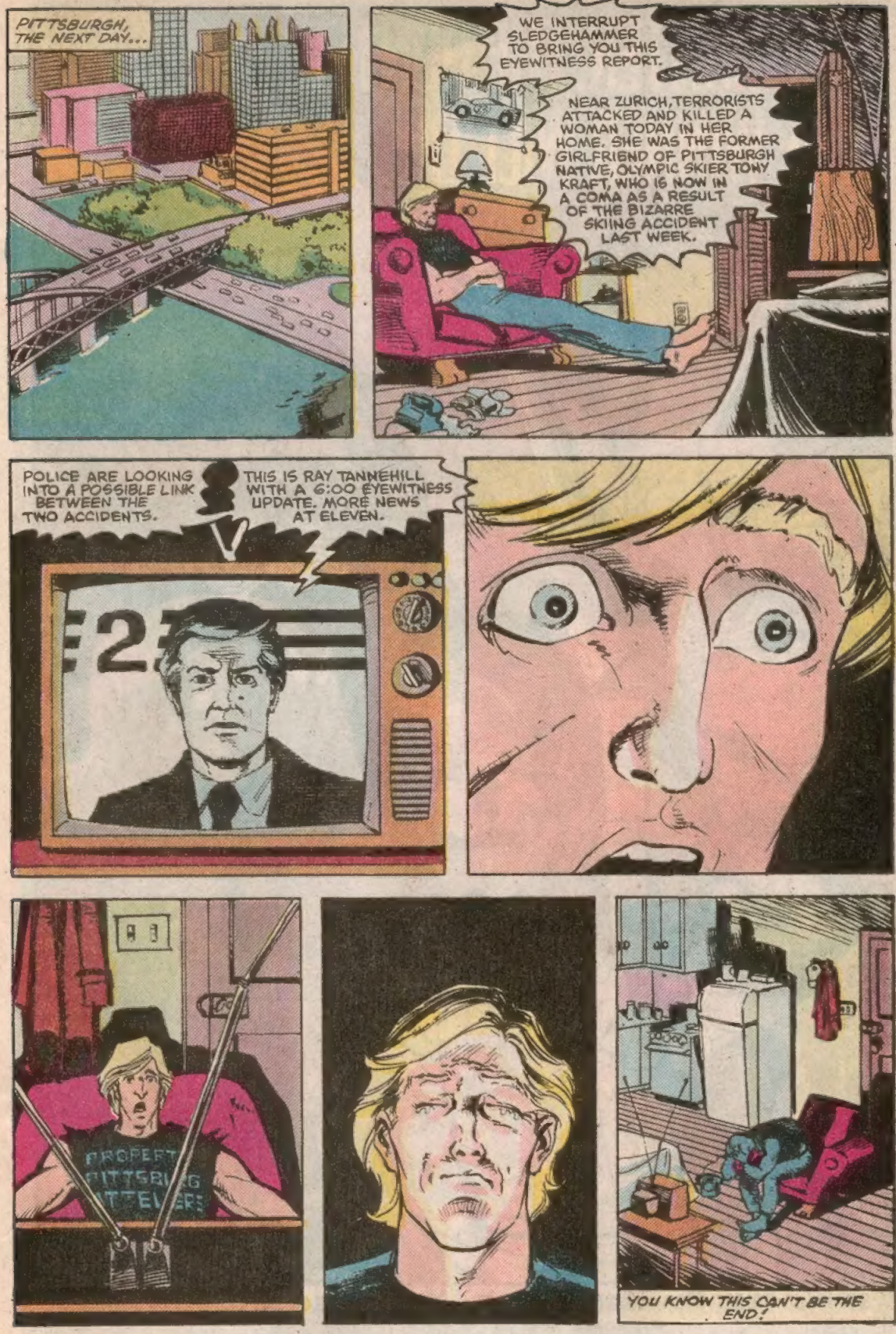
I'M GOING TO TONY.
STAY AWAY FROM ME-- FROM US.

IF YOU FOLLOW, I'LL TURN YOU IN TO THE AUTHORITIES.
"I *CAN'T* LOSE HER, BUT-- I CAN'T FORCE HER TO STAY.

"OH, ARIANE, AT LEAST THIS TIME I HOPE I'VE DONE THE RIGHT THING.


"TIME TO GO HOME.
"TOO BAD I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER WAY OF GETTING THERE.

"GOODBYE, ARIANE."


PITTSBURGH, THE NEXT DAY...
WE INTERRUPT SLEDGEHAMMER TO BRING YOU THIS EYEWITNESS REPORT.
NEAR ZURICH, TERRORISTS ATTACKED AND KILLED A WOMAN TODAY IN HER HOME. SHE WAS THE FORMER GIRLFRIEND OF PITTSBURGH NATIVE, OLYMPIC SKIER TONY KRAFT, WHO IS NOW IN A COMA AS A RESULT OF THE BIZARRE SKIING ACCIDENT LAST WEEK.
POLICE ARE LOOKING INTO A POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN THE TWO ACCIDENTS.
THIS IS RAY TANNEHILL WITH A 6:00 EYEWITNESS UPDATE. MORE NEWS AT ELEVEN.
2
YOU KNOW THIS CAN'T BE THE END!

TM & © 1987 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc.

A six-issue Spider-Man crossover series by J.M. DeMatteis, Mike Zeck, & Bob McLeod.
Beginning in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN™ #31.

universe news

ITEM: When the Marvel Universe was still aborning some twenty-six years ago, not all of its original creations immediately grabbed hold of the public fancy. The astonishing Ant-Man and the Human Torch lost their solo strips within a few years, and the incredible Hulk was cancelled after a mere *six issues* (only to return several years later as a co-feature). Now history is repeating itself in Marvel's New Universe. Four of the eight original New Universe titles have failed to catch on with a big enough segment of the buying public to warrant their continuation at this time. Those books which are being cancelled with the issues on sale this month are . . . MERC, NIGHTMASK, KICKERS INC., and CODENAME: SPITFIRE. While we've tried to provide some sense of resolution to the final issues of these titles, you have not seen the last of these books' characters (with one exception, which shall be apparent in the last issue of the title). Expect the unfortunate few who have lost their magazines to appear from time to time in the remaining New Universe titles, as well as certain *new* New Universe titles now in the planning stages. That's right, Marvel has not wavered in its commitment to its bold New Universe. We are simply retrenching, taking stock of what you, the true editors of our books, have told us about the merits and failings of our line, and we're coming up with new ways to make the New Universe the place to find the kind of stories you can't read anywhere else. To help us accomplish this, we've placed all of the New Universe titles under the auspices of *one editor*, a man who deserves an item all to himself. So, without further ado . . .

ITEM: Effective this very month, humble *Howard Mackie*, former managing editor for special publications, will take the editorial helm of all the New Universe titles — namely, D.P. 7, PSI-FORCE, JUSTICE, and STAR BRAND. Consolidating all of the books under a single editor's auspices will help coordinate the books' storylines so that the saga of the New Universe can unfold like never before. Howard, once known as the world's most mysterious assistant editor, approaches the task with the unbridled enthusiasm he is known for, and promises that the New Universe: Year Two will blow the socks off everyone's expectations (that is, if your expectations wear socks!). We'll profile Howard in this space next month!

ITEM: The entries are still pouring in on our New Universe slogan contest, and we're nowhere near sorting through the stack and determining our favorite. So in the meantime, here are more of your candidates for Official Sloganhood:

"Ours is the New Universe"
—Mike D'Ascenza, Toronto, Canada

"New way" "I new it!"
—Kevin Brittain, Haworth, OK

"One with the New Universe!"
—Robbie Rinto, Minerva, OH

"New News is Good News"
—Lowel Davison, Easthampton, MA

"New Universe: Get Real"
—Richard Horsman, Pittsburgh, PA

"I saw the White Event"
—Beth Hlabse, Richmond Heights, OH

"It's only the beginning"
—Mike Kamper, Western Springs, IL

"New for You"
—Sean O'Reilly, Hudson, OH

"Unleash the Universe"
—Bert Gall, Griifin, GA

"Travel through the New Universe"
—Emiliano Amaro, Bronx, NY

"Until the next White Event"
Phill Barnes, Orlando, FL

"New Times, New Needs: New Universe"
—Scott Odell, no address on entry.

"Marvelously real"
—Nettie B. Hayden, Pelham, AL

"I've Got New Umania"
—Randy Ross, Port McNeill, BC, Canada

"May the New Universe Never Grow Old"
—Ernie Wiegand, Alberta, Canada

"The New Universe: Feel it around you"
—Amy L. Watts, East Peoria, IL

"The newest expansion of your imagination"
—Eric Phillips, Canastota, NY

"The New Choice"
—Anthony Sowinski, Maspeth, NY

"The New Universe is My Universe"
—Tommy Spell, Jackson, MS

"Light my Universe"
—Phil McClellin, Cald, ID

"New Rules!"
—Truitt Johnson, Clenco, MN

"A New Universe for New People"
—Brian Goodyear, Ontario, Canada

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

If the New Universe takes place in "real time," how come a month does not pass between issues of D.P. 7?

"My understanding of the real time aspect of the New Universe books is that a year passes in the comic for every year that passes in real life, not that there is a month in between every issue. By about the end of the first year of D.P. 7's publication, a year has indeed passed for the characters (actually by the end of #13). I felt that crucial things were happening within the first few weeks of the Displaced Paranormals' escape from the Clinic that I did not want to gloss over, so I covered that period in depth. I had to allow several month-long time gaps to make up for that at the end of the first year."
—Mark Gruenwald, D.P. 7 writer

•NEW UNIVERSE CHECKLIST•

- ☐ **NIGHT MASK #12**—The end of Voodoo!
- ☐ **PSI FORCE #12**—Stasi's faith-healing power brings her in contact with a religious cult!
- ☐ **KICKERS, INC. #12**—The Kickers challenge a Canadian Hockey team!
- ☐ **MERC #12**—In a training camp for Afghan Freedom Fighters!
- ☐ **D.P. 7 #12**—Showdown at the Clinic with the ultimate Paranormal!
- ☐ **JUSTICE #12**—There is evil in this world. And now, there is Justice!
- ☐ **STAR BRAND ANNUAL #1**—Is the power of the Star Brand too much for Ken Connell to handle? It could spell death for someone he loves!
- ☐ **CODENAME: SPITFIRE #13**—Jenny goes into action — alone!
- ☐ **PSI FORCE ANNUAL #1**—Psi Force loses a member — and gains a new one! Also, find out what all the team members experienced on the day they gained their powers!

THE HULK® A MUTANT?

NOW X-FACTOR IS REALLY CONFUSED. FIND OUT WHY IN...

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

336 & 337

TM & © 1987 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc.